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ULVERSTON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1952.

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October, 1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual  
Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year  
1952.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	3,196
Population - Preliminary Census, 1951	10,076
- Registrar-General's estimate of home population mid-1952	10,040
Number of inhabited houses	3,077
Rateable Value	£63,684
Amount Produced by a Penny Rate	£248

Although a large part of the district is rural in character a variety of industries are carried on in the town the chief of which are tanning, manufacture of antibiotics, electrical accessories, light engineering, dress-making and fancy goods. Agriculture plays a large part in the life of the community and a cattle market is held weekly. Ulverston is also the market town for the surrounding countryside and a public market is held once a week.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principle vital statistics for 1952 and for the preceding five years are given in the table on page 2.

Of the 153 births registered during 1952, 83 were of males and 70 of females. Three of the births were of illegitimate children.

Approx. 78% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the principle causes of death were:- Heart Diseases 48, Intracranial vascular lesions 19 and malignant growths 23.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	Neo- Natal	
1952	153	15.2	128	12.7	2	13	nil	nil	5	33	1	7
1951	138	13.9	155	15.6	2	14	nil	nil	1	7	1	7
1950	158	15.9	147	14.8	3	19	nil	nil	7	44	2	13
1949	175	17.9	140	14.4	2	11	nil	nil	4	23	-	-
1948	165	16.7	127	12.8	4	23	nil	nil	6	36	-	-
1947	202	20.4	147	14.8	3	14	nil	nil	10	49	-	-
Average 5 years 1947 - 1951	-	17.0	-	14.5	-	16	-	-	-	31	-	4

Adjusted live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.05) = 16.0 per 1,000.  
 Adjusted death rate - (comparability factor, 0.88) = 11.2 per 1,000.

The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 148 Smaller Towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		148 Smaller Towns. 25,000 - 50,000 population.		Ulverston Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1948	17.9	10.8	19.2	10.7	16.7	12.8
1949	16.7	11.7	18.0	11.6	17.9	12.8
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	16.9	13.2
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.6	13.7
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	16.0	11.2

Note: The Death Rate for the Ulverston Urban District quoted in the above table for the year 1948 is the Crude Death Rate. Those for the years 1949 to 1952, inclusive, are adjusted Death Rates after correction for age and sex distribution.

The birth rates for 1948 and 1949, inclusive, are the Crude Birth Rates and those for 1950, 1951 and 1952 are adjusted.

The correction is made so that the adjusted rates for the Ulverston Urban District can be compared with the adjusted rate for any other locality or with the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

#### STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:-

J. L. WILD, M.A., M.B.,  
B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban  
District, Grange-over-  
Sands Urban District,  
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1,  
Lancashire County  
Council.



Sanitary Inspector:-

C. T. HAGUE, Sanitary  
Inspector's Certificate,  
R. S. I.

Other Appointments Held:-

Engineer and Surveyor -  
Ulverston Urban District  
Council.  
Manager - Water Undertaking,  
Ulverston Urban District  
Council.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:- J. K. YATES, Joint Board  
Certificate, Certificate  
R. S. I., Meat and Other  
Foods.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

#### Water Supply.

Water is supplied by Barrow Corporation from Pennington Reservoir to the Ulverston Urban District Council's water-works at Castle Hill, Pennington. Here the water is sand-filtered before storage in a service reservoir of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons capacity. Before passing into the trunk main for distribution the water is subjected to chlorination.

In the early part of the year it was found that the pressure to the higher parts of the town was inadequate and in order to remedy this, the trunk mains, from Pennington reservoir to a point beyond the town centre, were scraped. This had the desired effect and water supplies are now satisfactory for every district supplied by the undertakers.

Two chemical analyses and five bacteriological analyses of the water were made during the year and all gave satisfactory results.

At the end of the year 3014 houses had a supply direct from the mains and another 86 were supplied by standpipes. During the year 7 existing houses were newly connected to the main in addition to 86 new dwellings. No change occurred in the supplies from private sources.

#### Sewerage and Refuse Disposal.

The new scheme prepared by your Surveyor and the County Surveyor which was mentioned in last year's report, was commenced in March, 1952. The first phase of the scheme was about 70% complete by the end of the year. It is referred to again in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

At 31st December, 1952, there were 3,042 houses on the water carriage system with approx. 3,440 water closets. Further progress was made in improving the sanitary conditions of the district by converting 5 privy middens to pail closets and by substituting movable ashbins for dry ashtrays at two premises.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, stalls, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector, as also are particulars of registration under the milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 and 1948.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

## HOUSING.

Very satisfactory and steady progress can be recorded in the building of new houses on Croftlands Park, 74 houses having been completed during the year. In addition 12 houses were completed by private builders in various parts of the district. In spite of this it is estimated that some 450 new houses are still required.

Slum clearance as such is still in abeyance but the owners of a block of unsafe property adjoining the Ellers and Chapel Street have agreed to demolish it when the tenants are rehoused. The owners of certain other unsound or insanitary properties have agreed not to re-let them for human habitation. It is hardly possible at the present time to put into effect any extensive scheme of slum clearance. One difficulty standing in the way is of course the number of applicants already on the waiting list for council houses; but another difficulty is the inability, real or imaginary, of many of the tenants who would require re-housing, to pay the rents of new council houses.

### Statistics:

	Prefabricated houses. Tempor-ary.		Tradit-ional perm- anent houses.	Flats.
Number of new houses erected during the year:-				
1. By the local authority	Nil	Nil	74	Nil
2. By other local authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. By other bodies or persons	Nil	Nil	12	Nil

### Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-

- (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). 75
- (b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose. 193

2. (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1936.	21
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	35
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	19
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	26

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	15
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Action under statutory powers during the year:-

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners.	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	2
(b)	By local authority in default of owners.	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil



(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit nil

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease has again been low, whooping cough providing the greatest number of notified cases, namely 37.

Four houses were disinfected by formaldehyde vapour after infectious disease and clothing and bedding has been steam disinfected, when necessary, at Devonshire Road Hospital, Barrow.

Since 1st July, 1952, the policy has been adopted of disinfecting houses only after tuberculosis and smallpox. Bedding and clothing is still steam disinfected following all cases where these articles are likely to be a method of spread.

Disease						1952		Deaths.
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	
Scarlet Fever.	6	33	17	15	5	11	10	0
Diphtheria.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	56	1	0	208	16	7	0	0
Whooping Cough.	3	0	46	30	32	37	0	0
Pneumonia.	5	8	6	0	0	0	0	0
Polio-myelitis.	6	0	3	0	0	1	1	0
Polio-encephalitis.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Encephalitis lethargica.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.	79	42	74	253	54	57	12	0



# Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the number of new cases and mortality during 1952.

Age Periods  Years	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
35-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
75 and upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
	10		1		0		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston residents during the past twelve years.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1941	4	6	7	4	1	0	0	0
1942	7	5	4	7	3	3	0	1
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	9	7	5	6	1	2	1	0
1945	4	10	3	2	4	1	0	0
1946	8	2	1	2	5	1	0	0
1947	6	3	1	2	0	3	0	0
1948	1	6	1	0	4	4	0	0
1949	1	4	2	0	1	1	0	0
1950	3	6	3	0	2	3	0	0
1951	5	5	0	3	1	0	0	1
1952	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

At 31st December, 1952, there were in the district 66 factories at which mechanical power was used. It is the duty of the Local Authority to enforce the provisions of Section 7 of the Act dealing with the sanitary arrangements in such factories and for that purpose 65 inspections were made. Sanitary conveniences were found to be unsuitable or defective in 4 cases. All the defects were remedied.

There were 9 factories where mechanical power is not used. Seven inspections were made and in one case lack of cleanliness was observed. The defect had been remedied at a subsequent inspection.

There are no outworkers registered under the Act.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

As a result of application made by the Council a Court Order was made for the removal of a person under Section 47 of the Act. The patient, a female, was removed to Stanley Hospital but was later certified and moved to a mental hospital.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Ulverston Urban District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

### Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Additional Sanitary Inspector for the year 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We herewith submit a summary of the work relating to Public Health Administration carried out by the Department during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1952.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Main Drainage Scheme was commenced in March, 1952, and about 70% of the work has been completed. This has comprised the construction of a main sewer from Croftlands Housing Estate to the outfall and involved the laying of 24 inch and 42 inch diameter concrete

tubes and 23 inch, 36 inch and 42 inch diameter bitumen lined steel tubes. The remaining work consists of a beck crossing and the sewer outfall at Carter's Pool. Progress has been retarded by delays in delivery of tubes and bricks and encountering very bad ground. It is anticipated that the sewage from Croftlands Housing Estate will be connected to the new trunk sewer at an early date. This will relieve the existing sewer in Priory Road.

All drains and private sewers laid by local contractors have been tested and inspected. The connections to the public sewers have been made by the Department's staff.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

A regular weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year. The tip at Canal Head has been closed and tipping is now taking place at Next Ness. Treatments have been carried out to prevent infestations by rodents and insects and the tip has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

Routine treatments of the sewers, sewage works, controlled tip and beck courses have been carried out during the year and it is worthy of note that no major infestation of rats or mice has been found on any of the Council's properties.

Anti-coagulant poison baiting, by the use of Warfarin, has largely superseded the previous methods of poisoning as it is relatively harmless to human beings and domestic animals and overcomes the difficulty of poison prejudice.

The following is a summary of treatments undertaken:-

Private houses	147
Business Premises	21
Local Authority's Properties	19
Agricultural Properties	2

#### HOUSING.

Although slum clearance is still in abeyance, a few of the worst properties have been closed for human habitation and the families re-housed where necessary. Undertakings not to re-let for habitation in their present unfit state have been accepted from the owners of the following unfit houses:-

- 1, 2, 3 and 4, Fitz Cottages.
- 7, Bells Yard.
- 12, Queen's Court.
- 7, Back Lane.
- High School Bungalow.

The owner of three houses in Canal Street has also agreed not to re-let until they have been made fit for human habitation.

A closing order on 1, Sandhall, was cancelled on completion of satisfactory structural repairs.



The main wall of 22, The Ellers, a three storey building, the wall of which also forms the front wall of 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, Chapel Street, was found to be unsafe. As the main roof of all the houses was defective and dangerous in parts, the owners have agreed to demolish the property when all the tenants are re-housed. This necessitates dealing with the whole block of eight houses including 18 and 20, The Ellers.

Reference is made again to the houses which are at present fit, but through inadequate external painting and pointing during the war and post war years, are structurally deteriorating and falling into obsolescence. Even if landlords are willing to expend sums of money to ensure that houses can be maintained in a proper state of repair and that their useful life is not terminated prematurely, the Rent Restriction Acts seem to be deterring many from taking this course of action.

#### SANITARY INSPECTIONS, ETC.

971 inspections and re-inspections have been made following the receipt of complaints or investigations of nuisances found during inspections of the district.

Below is a summary of the cases dealt with by serving informal notices.

Insufficient or insanitary accommodation for house refuse	2
Defective condition of Premises (Miscellaneous defects)	35
Defective condition of drains	8
Defective or insanitary closets	12
Inadequate water supply	4
Defective roofs	13
Defective spouting and guttering	3
Animals kept in such a manner as to be a nuisance	4
Verminous premises	20
Miscellaneous nuisances	11

Cases dealt with by serving Statutory Notices.

Premises in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance	3
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#### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There are seven factory chimneys in the district and smoke observations are taken at frequent intervals to time the emission of black smoke. Representation was made to one factory following unsatisfactory observations and additional equipment has now been installed which has effectively limited the quantity of black smoke.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### Meat Inspection.

Centralised slaughtering for Ulverston, Ulverston Rural District and Grange Urban District is still carried out under Ministry of Food arrangements at the privately

owned slaughterhouse in the Gill, Ulverston. No major improvements have taken place during the year and conditions are similar to those given in previous reports.

It is satisfying to report on the high standard of cleanliness which is maintained under difficult working conditions and the use of detergents and sterilising agents for tables, utensils and equipment.

The total number of animals slaughtered was 9533 and of these, 269 carcasses and sets of offals were totally condemned as unfit for food. 429 animals were admitted for slaughter under casualty procedure.

Number of animals slaughtered at the abattoir.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	1391	1250	6521	371	9533
1951	1656	1354	4826	253	8089
1950	1558	1494	5826	82	8960
1949	1211	1456	6579	128	9374
1948	1162	1302	4389	53	6906

Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle Exclu- ding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	904	487	1250	6521	371
Number inspected	904	487	1250	6533 <sup>*</sup>	378 <sup>*</sup>

All diseases except tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses condemned	6	7	191	48	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	69	144	1	40	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	8.4%	31%	9.6%	1.3%	4%

Tuberculosis only:

Whole carcasses condemned	3	8	2	-	-
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	77	112	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.8%	24.6%	0.15%	-	2.1%

<sup>\*</sup>Includes farm dressed animals.

Causes of Condemnation.

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Tuberculosis - Generalised	13			
Tuberculosis - Congenital		2		
Bruising - extensive and severe		3	2	

### Causes of Condemnation (cont.).

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Decomposition			1	
Dropsy - general			13	
Emaciation - pathological			16	
Erysipelas - acute swine				1
Fever - acute			1	
Immaturity		136		
Jaundice		2		
Mammitis - acute septic	2		1	
Metritis - acute septic			1	
Pneumonia - gangrenous			3	
Pyæmia - including joint ill, or umbilical pyæmia	1	33	5	1
Septicaemia	7	7	5	2
Other causes	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
	<u>24</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>4</u>

Once again the percentage of calves condemned for immaturity is high. This arises, partly through arrangements made between the R.S.P.C.A. and local auction whereby all small and weak calves are directed to the local slaughterhouse, and the number of newly born calves arriving for slaughter direct from farms.

### Unsound Food.

Visits to food shops have been made for the purpose of inspecting foodstuffs and the following articles of unsound food have been voluntarily surrendered by the owners for destruction:-

Meat and Ham	148 tins
Milk	169 tins
Mixed Fruit	676 tins
Mixed Vegetables	118 tins
Miscellaneous Foods	30 tins
Bacon	1 roll
Butter	7 lbs.
Cheese	52 lbs.
Chocolate	73 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Cooked sirloin	40 lbs.
Cooked veal	30 lbs.
Turkish Delight	35 lbs.

### Milk and Dairies.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, four persons are registered as Distributors and two premises registered for use as Dairies (not being Dairy Farms). One of the Dairies is now only used for storage of empty milk bottles awaiting collection and unsold bottled milk for return to the main depot.

Three dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two retail distributors' licences to sell pasteurised milk have been issued.

Fourteen samples of milk were obtained for bacteriological examination for cleanliness, three of which proved to be unsatisfactory. The persons concerned were dairy farmers operating from premises outside the district and the cases were dealt with by



the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee. Further samples were taken from the offenders and proved to be satisfactory. Thirteen samples of milk were submitted for biological examination and proved negative to the tubercle test.

#### Food Shops and Premises.

Frequent visits have been made to all premises (including canteens) where food is prepared and sold, for compliance with the Food and Drugs Act and Food Handling Byelaws. Isolated cases arose where the occupier's attention had to be drawn to the necessity for periodical painting, limewashing or cleansing, but in each instance formal action has been unnecessary. All food premises now have satisfactory supplies of hot and cold water for washing purposes and at two shops additional water closets have been provided for the use of female assistants.

Structural alterations have taken place at two of the premises for manufacture of preserved foods. The work has included fitting new ceilings, cementing and tiling walls and gloss painting. All the registered premises have maintained a very high standard of cleanliness.

Below is a list of the principal food premises and visits.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Inspections</u>
Food Shops	104	220
Bakehouses	14	39
Preserved foods	4	22
Industrial canteens	6	13
Fried Fish Shops	5	11
Cafes	14	34

#### Ice Cream.

Two premises are registered for manufacture, storage and sale and 14 premises registered for storage and sale.

The retailers mainly sell pre-packed ice cream and comply with the requirements of the Codes of Practice for such sale.

The two manufacturers prepare ice cream in accordance with the Heat Treatment Regulations, have adequate arrangements for steam sterilisation of utensils and the premises have been kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Five samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination. Under the provisional grading scheme, three came under the category of Grade 1 and two Grade 2.

We are, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. T. HAGUE.

J. K. YATES.

Sanitary Inspectors.

